

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 31, 2003. Claims 1 to 9 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 6 to 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0140007 (Kramer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns installation of software utilizing unique installation keys. According to the invention, a user transmits identification information (such as a credit card number) to an authorizing agency. The authorizing agency verifies the legitimacy of the user and the credit card, and utilizes the user's identification information to generate an installation key unique to the user. The installation key is then issued to the user's computer for use in installing the software. When the software is being installed, the installation key generated by the authorizing agency is compared with a locally generated unique key that is generated by the user's computer utilizing the user's identification information. If the two keys match, then the software can be successfully installed. Thus, the present invention provides unique installation keys rather than keys generated at random so that the unique key can be generated by both the authorizing agency as well as the user's computer for use in comparing the two keys.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method for issuing an installation key to a software user for installing software on a computer, comprising the steps of a user notifying a sales company of the user's ID information, communicating the notified ID information from the sales company to an

authorizing agency to request confirmation of legitimacy of the user having notified the ID information, and confirming the legitimacy of the user in the authorizing agency in accordance with the notified ID information to communicate a result of the confirmation to the sales company, and producing, in the sales company, an installation key uniquely corresponding to the user on the basis of the ID information, and issuing the installation key to the user if the user is confirmed to be a legitimate user.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 7 are system and computer-program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 8 is An installing method for installing software on a computer system, comprising the steps of displaying an installation screen of the software by actuating an installer, inputting an installation key issued by a sales company and ID information of a user into the installation screen, and producing a key uniquely corresponding to the user in accordance with the ID information, and comparing the key and the installation key, and executing the installation of the software if the key and the installation key are in agreement.

Amended independent Claim 9 is a computer-program claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 8.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1 and 6 to 9. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a sales company producing an installation key uniquely corresponding to a user based on the user's ID information after receiving confirmation from an authorizing agency of legitimacy of the user, and issuing the installation key to the user for installing software (Claims 1, 6 and 7), or a user's computer in which software is to be installed producing a key uniquely corresponding to the user in accordance with input ID

information of the user, comparing the produced key with an installation key issued by a sales company, and executing the installation of the software if the key and the installation key are in agreement (Claims 8 and 9).

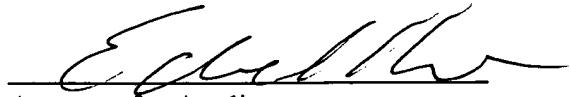
Kramer is merely seen to disclose a system that performs authorization of user's for purchasing goods over a network, and issuing encrypted keys for performing transactions over the network. However, Kramer is not seen to disclose or to suggest that a sales company produces and issues an installation key that uniquely corresponds to a user utilizing input ID information of the user, or that the installation key produced by the sales company is compared to a locally generated key that is produced locally based on the user's ID information in order to allow installation of software. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 6 to 9 are not believed to be anticipated by Kramer.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

As a formal matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's Claim To Priority under § 119, which was filed on December 10, 2001, together with a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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